

KEEPING YOU POSTED

Newsletter of the United Church of Christ

Vol. 25, No. 1, January-February 1990

ISSN 0361-8668



FALL MEETING ROUNDUP:

UCC Looks Inward & Outward

These are highlights of actions taken at fall meetings of national UCC boards.

UC Board for World Ministries' directors:

Adopted "interim guidelines" for a new pattern of assisting direct partnerships between U.S. congregations, associations and conferences and their counterparts overseas. UCBWM has not encouraged such widespread partnerships in the past to avoid confusion and extra work for global partners and to keep financial resources available to all of them, not just to those in selected centers of interest.

Voted to form a joint long-range planning committee with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) overseas ministries division.

Okayed a \$12.7 million 1990 budget.

Endorsed a 1989 Organization of African Unity declaration urging talks between African officials and anti-apartheid groups and demanding preconditions such as release of political prisoners and removal of troops from townships.

UC Board for Homeland Ministries' directors:

Voted to boost UCBHM's AIDS ministry with a full-time coordinator and a 1990 series of educational projects.

Elected B. Ann and L. William Eichhorn, Mill Valley, CA, co-general secretaries of the division of the American Missionary Association; William R. Johnson, New York City, secretary for AIDS programs and ministries coordination; Thomas M. Caranacortes, WA, secretary for education in the parish community; and Vilma thin Vasquez, Puerto Rico, secretary for education in the local church.

Okayed a \$14.6 million 1990 budget.

the Executive Council:

Voted to pursue selling the St. Louis UCC building and discuss with UCBHM and UCBWM possible up-front financial help for the move (see separate story, this page).

Elected Bernice Powell, New York, executive associate to the president. She is the first woman and the first African-American in that position.

Urged a consultation of the church's other bodies to respond to needs of the UCC African-American churches.

Denounced recent Supreme Court decisions as eroding minority and women's rights and called on UCC bodies to declare by official action a renewed determination to eliminate racism.

Commissioners of the Commission on Racial Justice:

Urged the UCC to join in efforts to combat racially motivated violence.

Called on Ralph D. Abernathy to apologize for his "scurrilous" book about Martin Luther King, Jr.; extended prayers for his healing and reconciliation, and urged the publisher to "make restitution" to King's family and African-Americans.

Sept. 9

1990

Property of
Graduate Theological Union

World Board Joins HQ Help Talks
UC Board for World Ministries' directors voted in Nov. to join UC Board for Homeland Ministries in talks with the Executive Council about possible financial aid to help underwrite costs of the headquarters move to Cleveland.

They will discuss whether it would be beneficial for the two boards to offer cash gifts up front, or other financial support, to help the UCC reduce 30-year mortgage costs, including moving and personnel as well as the building.

New Projects Hone Evangelism Skills

Two new programs to help UCC laity and clergy sharpen skills for evangelism and membership growth start this year.

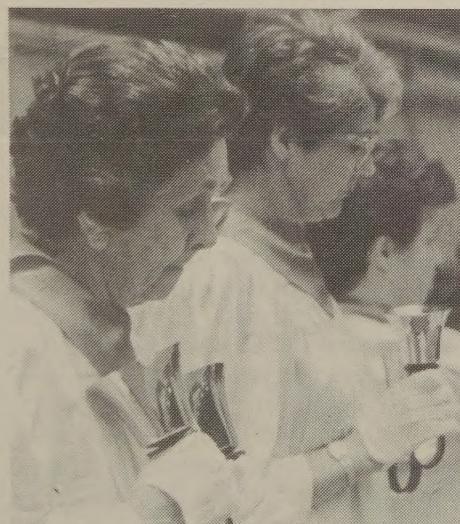
One, focusing on "Communication Training for Membership Growth," is sponsored by the Office of Communication and UC Board for Homeland Ministries in cooperation with conferences or associations. The program offers an evangelism-communication overview, followed by workshops for church members on such topics as doing a church newsletter or creating ads. The Telemision Van will teach how to use video.

For details, contact Eugene A. Schneider, OC, UCC, 700 Prospect Ave. E., Cleveland, OH 44115, 216-736-2100.

The second is an "Evangelism Institutes" program developed by the Homeland Board. In addition to participating in Bible studies on the meaning of evangelism, local church teams will attend seminars on such themes as how to talk about your faith and how to discern your church's mission.

Plans call for the teams to meet for two and a half days, yearly, for three years. The first year will emphasize "Worship and Evangelism"; the second "Reviving Our Faith: Telling Our Story," and the third "Caring through Calling."

Participants will be selected by conferences in 14 areas nationwide.



"UCC Women's Week" will be observed in Feb. and **"World Day of Prayer"** in Mar. See "Upcoming Events" on page 4 for details.
(Photo by W. Evan Golder)

THEOLOGY FORUM 'In a New Light'

By David Andrews

As a child, I remember noticing a particularly ugly house on the road between our summer cottage and the village. It was your basic tarpaper shack, with every worn-out appliance and automobile that the family had ever owned conveniently preserved in the front yard. As we walked by, or even drove by in the car with the windows open, the place had a characteristic smell, and it was not one which I found pleasant!

One evening, however, there was a thundershower, and then a partial clearing, so that the low sun was shining in across the lake, against a backdrop of thick black clouds to the east. The lake sparkled with spots of gold, and the whole landscape became luminous. The old house which had always looked so bad was suddenly transfigured, bathed in gold. The old refrigerator in the yard glowed with an almost celestial purity. The house itself seemed like a magic palace, a place where royalty might dwell. I saw the scene in a new light, and I was amazed.

The next day, of course, everything was back to normal. The place was as dingy as ever, and the rain had not improved the smell much either. But I always thought of the place differently after that. Having seen it in a new light once, it was never quite the same again.

Something like this seems to have happened to the disciples in the strange visionary experience called the Transfiguration.

Off on top of Mount Hermon, with Jesus praying and probably also worrying about the days to come, the disciples suddenly see Jesus bathed in light, glowing with a holy fluorescence. He is still the person they have known, and yet in another way he is not.

Then, as the disciples watch, two other figures appear and begin talking with Jesus. They are identified as Moses and Elijah, two heroes of faith from the past. They speak with Jesus about his upcoming suffering and death.

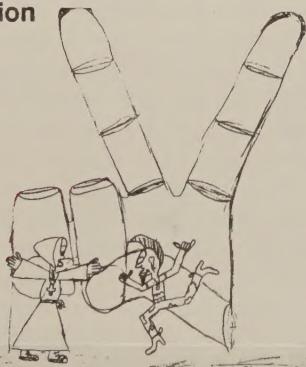
Although the disciples attempt to enshrine this vision so as to preserve it, they are able to do so only in their own consciousness. Through this transfiguration, they have seen Jesus in a new light, and in a new way. Increasingly, they understand who he is, and who he is not. He is not a replay of Moses or Elijah; he is, in the words attributed to God, "my Son, I have chosen."

In this Season of Epiphany, we celebrate the revelations of God, the ways in which God helps us to see things in new ways. As Christians, we know that life is deeper and richer and more profound than its outward appearances would suggest. Christ, we have seen the world transfigured before our eyes into a place of justice and beauty and peace. And having seen this vision even once, we can only long for the time when this vision is so real that no one can miss it. Having been to the mountain of transfiguration, we return to the world armed with courage, with faith and with hope.

David Andrews is pastor of The Congregational Church UCC, in Middlebury, VT.

Priorities Report

Education



At The Congregational Church of Goffstown, NH, worship bulletins on Christian Education Sunday feature drawings by church school students. Each drawing appears on two or three bulletins. (Drawing by Matt Monahan)

KEEPING YOU POSTED P.O. Box 222198 Dallas, TX 75222

Published bimonthly in January, March, May, July, September and November at 700 Prospect Ave. East, Cleveland, OH 44115. Second-class postage paid at Cleveland, OH 44101 and additional offices. Prepared by the Office of Communication of the United Church of Christ, editorial offices, 700 Prospect Ave. East, Cleveland, OH 44115. Postmaster: Send address changes to KYP at 700 Prospect Ave. East. ISSN 0361-8668

Integrity of Creation, Justice & Peace

The Peoria office of the *Illinois Conference Central Association* acts as environmental stewardship clearinghouse for the area. Using details compiled by the association women's resource team, staff member Paula Knight-Tyler answers callers' questions on such topics as how to order environmental catalogs and newspapers or where to take recyclables or get environmentally sound products.

Evangelism and Membership Growth

The outreach and assimilation committee at St. John's UCC, Rosenberg, TX, challenged worshipers on Epiphany Sunday, 1988, to spend a year inviting people to church with the goal of adding one new member each. Forty-eight came forward then and 58 when the challenge was repeated in Jan. 1989. New members are up (19 in 1987, 36 in 1988, 27 through Sept. 1989), but St. John's newly visible commitment to outreach is just as important, says minister Don Kolkmeier.

The Homeless Poor

On Epiphany, 1989, a "Follow the Star" processional pageant led by a lit star atop a pole raised donations of infant care supplies for Reading, MA homeless shelters. *First Congregational Church, UCC*, and five other churches were stops on the way, adding music and characters.

Seminary to Tap Minds of Retired Top Church Execs

Early this year, Hartford (CT) Seminary launched a seminar program with retired top executives of Protestant and Catholic faith groups. Former UCC president Avery D. Post heads the project, which is supported by the Lily Endowment.

Aim of the program is to "tap the many years of experience and great store of knowledge that these high-level church leaders have of religious life in America," says Hartford dean William McKinney.

The seminar will meet four days, twice a year, over the next two and a half years. Participants will offer recollections and papers, to be made available by Hartford.

OPPOSING VIEW

In response to a UC Board for World Ministries staff member's critique of the Bush anti-drug campaign for stressing law enforcement over treatment and for reinforcing stereotypes blaming Third World and racial/ethnic people, MILFORD CHANDLER of Lake Wales, FL writes:

In Nov.-Dec. KYP, I find Arthur Critchley predicting the failure of the war on drugs. He considers the program "racist." These people who use drugs, he says, are not "evil people." Well, they are actually corroding American society and support the program of criminality that includes burglary, assault and murder. If these are not evil, then what people are

Where to Find National Staff in 1990

UCC headquarters move to Cleveland is underway and will continue over this year and the next. To help our readers find national staff during this transitional time, *KYP* offers below summary information on where people who have been working in New York and St. Louis will be located in 1990. Note that the 1991 moves are not included, nor are details on regional staff or offices other than in those two cities (most of which remain the same). Changes in personnel will be covered in an upcoming issue of *KYP*, while complete information on who's where will be published by the Stewardship Council this spring in a special insert to the *UCC Desk Calendar and Plan Book*.

Cleveland Address:

Prospect Ave. East
Cleveland, OH 44115
212-736-2100

New York Address:

Riverside Dr.
New York, NY 10115

St. Louis Address:

10 N. 7 St.
St. Louis, MO 63106

Instrumentality Info

Executive Offices

Staff/positions are now in Cleveland.
Coordinating Center for Women in
Church and Society

New York and St. Louis staff/positions are
in Cleveland. Other staff remain in Wor-
ton, OH and Decatur, GA.

Board for World Ministries

New York staff/positions remain through
20 at 16th floor, 212-870-2637, except
for action officer, who joins UC Board for
World Ministries. David Vargas, new
Latin America/Caribbean regional secretary,
located at Christian Church (Disciples of
Christ), P.O. Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN
46206, 317-353-1491.

Gustav Kuether, world service secretary,
is in St. Louis through 1990--at current of-
fice through mid-Jan., 314-241-3066, then at
location to be determined.

Board for Homeland Ministries

Staff/positions remain in New York
through 1990 at 11th floor, 212-870-2100.

Office for Church in Society

All New York staff/positions are now in
Cleveland, except the two associates for
church empowerment, who will be based in
Washington, DC through 1990.

Office for Church Life and Leadership

William Hulteen, executive director; Thomas
Tupper, executive associate; Charlotte Still,
Great Lakes regional associate; and media
resources associate job are now in Cleveland.
UCC Experience 1990 contact remains in
Brookings, SD. All other positions remain
regionally deployed.

Office of Communication

Most New York staff/positions are now in
Cleveland. Kathi Wolfe, writer, will move to
Cleveland from New York in Feb. and Hans
Holznagel, new public relations coordinator,
will commute between New York and
Cleveland through 1990.

At New York office, Room 852, 212-870-
2137, through 1990 are William Winslow,
writer/video reporter, and Martha Gotwals,
KYP editor/copy editor. Andrew Blau, com-
munication policy and advocacy assistant, will
remain with OC there through summer, when
Martha Gotwals will take his responsibilities.

Washington office remains the same, but
an OC writer also will be based in DC in a
shared position in OCIS' Washington office.

Commission for Racial Justice

Most New York staff/positions are now in
Cleveland and, in addition, Leon White has
joined headquarters staff there as national
director for mission interpretation.

At New York office, Room 1948, 212-870-
2077, is Charles Lee, research and ecumenical
relations associate.

Washington and Enfield, NC offices
remain, but with the former emphasizing
urban and the latter rural issues.

Stewardship Council

Most New York staff/positions are now in
Cleveland.

At New York office, Room 1950, 870-2402,
are associates Veronica Jefferson,
stewardship development; Alfred Jones, mis-
sion education; and Christopher Goering,
mission and stewardship communication.

At a new New Haven office, 254 College St.,
Suite 501, New Haven, CT 06510, 203-787-
2779, are managing editor Christina Villa and
administrative associate Ethel Benish.

United Church Resources and stewardship
program associates Jack Batten and David
Beebe remain in St. Louis, at current building
and phone, 314-621-1330, through mid-Jan.,
then at a site to be determined. SC hopes to
keep the toll-free number 800-325-7061.

Staff based in other locations remain there.

Commission on Development

Office remains in New York, Room 1950, 212-
870-2012.

The Pension Boards

Most staff/positions remain in New York, 10th
floor, 212-870-2777. A few jobs in Cleveland
may be filled sometime this year.

United Church Foundation

Office remains in New York, Room 1020, 212-
870-2820.

New Flyers Offer Church-School Advice

Public school teachers should teach about, but not promote, religion; and students
should learn about, but not celebrate, religious holidays in the classroom.

These are among the views expressed by leading religious and educational groups
in two new brochures available from UC Board for Homeland Ministries. Published
by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, the pamphlets discuss issues around
religion and the public schools.

Why should public schools teach about religion? Because "study about religion
is essential to understanding both the nation and the world," says the booklet enti-
tled "Religion in the Public School Curriculum." But, the pamphlet states, teach-
ing about religion must be "academic, not devotional."

In lieu of school celebrations, students should be allowed a "reasonable number
of excused absences" on religious holidays, advises the brochure entitled "Religious
Holidays in the Public Schools."

Churches can help schools in a variety of ways, a new National Council of Chur-
ches brochure entitled "School/Church Partnerships" points out. The pamphlet en-
courages churches to be advocates for
school children and to help recruit
teachers and school board members.

Single copies of the brochures are free
from Nanette Roberts, UCBHM, 475
Riverside Dr., 10th floor, New York, NY
10115, 212-870-3431.

**SEND NEWS stories, PHOTOS and OP-
POSING VIEWS of 100 words or less to
stands taken in a particular article to KYP,
Office of Communication, United Church
of Christ, 475 Riverside Dr., Room 852,
New York, NY 10115.**

UC Scene

LANCASTER THEOLOGICAL SEMI-
NARY has created a Mercersburg theol-
ogy studies program and has established
an endowed chair in Mercersburg and
ecumenical theology. John Payne is the
first person to hold this position.

UC Board for Homeland Ministries
director DANIEL CAPLAN was installed
in the National Hall of Fame for Persons
with Disabilities in Columbus, OH in Oct.

RECOMMENDED

Wise Women Bearing Gifts, edited by
Suzan D. Johnson, pays tribute to 14
spunky, precedent-setting ordained and
lay women ministers. Each chapter con-
tains a different life story, narrated by
another woman in testimonial style.
\$7.95 plus \$1.50 postage and handling
from Judson Sales, P.O. Box 851, Valley
Forge, PA 19482, 800-458-3766.

News Briefs

UCC Health & Welfare Institutions to be Zoned

A UCC working group, charged with assigning UCC health and human service institutions to conferences, holds its first meeting in Feb. Convened by the Stewardship Council, the group is expected to recommend a new zoning pattern to the Executive Council within two years. Its members include Council for Health and Human Service Ministries and Council for Health and Welfare Services representatives and four conference ministers.

Japanese Pastor Begins U.S. Ministry Program

In Oct., Sake Pomokawa, a United Church of Christ in Japan minister, began a special three-year ministry with Japanese immigrants in California, revitalizing UCC churches. His work is sponsored by UC Board for World Ministries, UC Board for Homeland Ministries, the Southern California Conference and Hollywood Independent UCC in Los Angeles as well as the UCC in Japan.

Certified Church Educators Increase

The number of church educators certified annually by the UCC has increased steadily during the past three years, climbing to 25 in 1989, says UC Board for Homeland Ministries' Patricia Goldberg, who staffs the Committee on Certification for Church Educators in the UCC. Professional church educators, they work in settings ranging from seminaries to retirement homes, as well as congregations.

COCU Forms New Structure, Takes on New Task

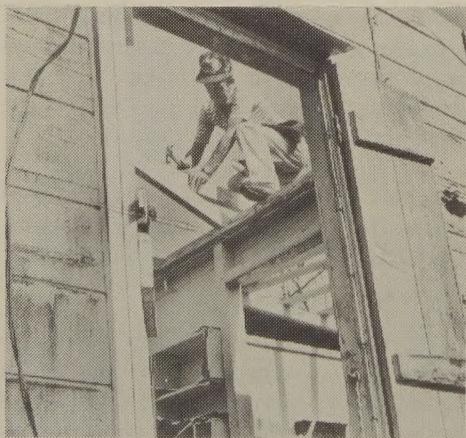
With approval by all nine participant church bodies of "The COCU Consensus," the Consultation on Church Union has disbanded its working groups and is appointing in their place four new task forces and "covenanting enablers" from member denominations. Reason for the change in structure is a new emphasis on interpreting the meaning of church union at the grassroots level.

United Church of Canada Examines Authority of the Bible

While the Bible is divinely inspired and witnesses to the ministry of Jesus, it was not dictated by God, says a preliminary United Church of Canada study on "The Authority and Interpretation of Scripture." The study also asserts that scripture can support opposing views on such issues as capital punishment, but cannot be used to justify such practices as slavery, which was accepted by the Bible's writers.

Methodists' Appointment System Questioned

More than a fifth of 74 active and retired United Methodist bishops who responded to a recent Duke University Divinity School survey said that clergy from that denomination should no longer receive guaranteed annual appointments. Although a long-standing tradition, the right of all clergy in a United Methodist conference to receive an appointment each year was not spelled out in church law until 1956.



Rebuilding after Hurricane Hugo is one of the many kinds of relief and development efforts around the world helped by One Great Hour of Sharing gifts. Suggested date for the offering is Mar. 25.

(RNS Photo/BP/Ronald Cantrell)

WI Curriculum Goes National

United Church Press and the Wisconsin Conference are publishing a lectionary-based curriculum, to be ready in 1992.

Foundation for the project is a curriculum already created by the Wisconsin Conference based on biblical passages. "It explores the questions and themes that emerge from studying scripture," explains associate conference minister Peter Monkres.

United Church Press and UC Board for Homeland Ministries' division of education and publication will expand on what's been done by Wisconsin and work with other conferences in designing the new curriculum.

UPCOMING EVENTS

UCC Women's Week is **Feb. 4-10**. The theme is "Gifted by Grace." The winter issue of *Common Lot*, mailed to all churches in Dec., contains resources. Contact UCC Coordinating Center for Women, 700 Prospect Ave. East Cleveland, OH 44115, 216-736-2100.

"A Better Tomorrow--Justice for All" is the theme of *World Day of Prayer*, to be observed **Mar. 2**. For worship materials contact Church Women United Resources, 475 Riverside Dr., Rm. 812, New York, NY 10115, 212-870-2347.

OBITUARY

LOUIS H. GUNNEMANN, 79, founding dean of United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, New Brighton, MN, and a leading UCC theologian, died of lymphoma Oct. 31 in Minneapolis. He served as vice moderator of the General Synod, chaired the UCC Commission on Worship and was one of the creators of the denomination's "Statement of Faith."

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